

1321  
December 14, 1937.

Miss Mildred Seaman,  
1321 Massachusetts St.,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Miss Seaman:

Confirming my phone conversation this morning, I would appreciate it if your announcer could state that these broadcasts heretofore given under the direction of the Department of Physical Education will be discontinued on the 23rd and 30th of December - the 23rd for the Christmas program and the 30th for whatever program, musical or otherwise, that you see fit to use.

It happens that I will not get back to Lawrence until about 11:30 the night of the 30th. Our team leaves Des Moines at 4 o'clock on the Rock Island Rocket and we will not get into Kansas City until 9:30. So I will be out of town.

I would appreciate it if you could mention on the 30th that our first home game after the opening of school on January 3 will be with Washburn on January 4. This is a non-conference game. Then on January 7 we play Oklahoma at Lawrence, the opening conference game for 1938 for the Big Six basketball championship.

Between halves of the Kansas-Oklahoma game Junior Coen, the captain of the Kansas varsity tennis team in 1931-'32-'33 and a former member of the Davis Cup Team, will play an exhibition match with Hal Surface, of Kansas City, a member of the Davis Cup Team.

Then, there will be a second game that night between the members of the 1936 ever-victorious Big Six champions and the all-star frosh team. The five starting freshmen were all members of the National Honor Society when in high school, and a great basketball future is predicted for these boys. They are fine students as well as fine athletes.

The members of the ever-victorious team will be Ray Ebling, Paul Rogers and Ray Noble, forwards; Milton Allen, center; and Francis Kappelman, Fred Pralle and Wilmer Shaffer, guards. Milton Allen and Wilmer Shaffer drove in from Russell, Kansas, to see the varsity-frosh game on the night of December 3rd. After witnessing the spectacular game put up by the freshmen, Wilmer and Milton returned to Russell and started going to bed every night at 9 o'clock!

It should be a great game. The all-star ever-victorious and the all-star frosh game will be played immediately after the Kansas-Oklahoma game.

At the Kansas-Washburn game on January 4th the varsity and the B teams of Kansas will play the varsity and the B teams of Washburn. The B team game will follow the A team contest.

Very sincerely yours,

Varsity Basketball Coach,  
Director of Physical Education

FCA:AH



Office of  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
109 Fraser Hall

# KFKU

BROADCASTING STATION OF  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Central Standard Time  
1220 Kilocycles



Studio in  
Electrical Laboratory

November 9, 1937

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

In reply to your letter of November 5, I regret that our announcer made such an error in the official title introducing Dr. H. L. Chambers.

You gave me the title correctly and I passed this information along to our announcer. He informs me that he confused Dr. Chambers' title as Secretary of the Kansas State Medical Society with his past official position on the Board of Physical Education here at the University.

Mr. Pinney joins me in expressing our regrets and assures me that such an error will not happen again. I am writing to Dr. Chambers extending both Mr. Pinney's and my apologies.

Thanking you for calling my attention to this error, I am

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Program Director.

MS:EM

RADIO PROGRAM

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH

January 13, 1938

"THE TIP-LESS GAME OF BASKETBALL"

- Allen Dr. Naismith, I would like to ask you a question. After 45 years of starting your game of basketball with the center tip, the rules committee last April eliminated the tip after field and foul goals. In your opinion, why did they do this?
- Naismith Well, in originating the game, after considerable thought as to how the ball would be put in play, the center tip seemed the only reasonable way of giving each side an equal chance of obtaining the ball. Now, the only objection that I can see to it is that the tall player monopolizes the tip-off because of his height and the assistance of the referee who tosses it up in such a manner that the tall man has a better chance of obtaining it than the short man. There are several ways in which this might have been corrected. Now that is my idea. Doctor, what is yours? You are on the Rules Committee, and attended the meeting in which the National Rules body voted it out. Why did they do this?
- Allen Well, Dr. Naismith, I find myself agreeing with you on the center tip-off. I have always believed in it. I have always contended that in football we have the kick off at the start of the game. I feel that the tip-off at the start of the game of basketball, and after each goal, is just as vital because it tends to give both sides an equal advantage. At the Rules meeting I found myself in a very great minority, and as is the habit with all of those committee gatherings, the minority goes along peaceably with the majority. I felt that if the majority desired it, it was only fair to give them a chance without protesting violently against it. I still think basketball has enough thrills for the spectators and the players in the tipless game. I found many of the rules-makers blaming all the ills of basketball on the tall man at the tip-off. Really, I think that because the basket is only 10 feet from the floor that we are blaming a man for being too tall under a 10-foot basket, because those tall players can actually dunk the ball into the basket. Some of the tall players can actually reach 8 inches above the basket. In my opinion, the goal should be out of reach of all players.
- Naismith Well, the things you have said are still not a sufficient reason to me to do away with a fair and spectacular method and substitute one that is less so.
- Allen Dr. Naismith, I still agree with you 100 per cent, because it is the tall man that beats you under the defensive or offensive basket by reaching higher than his teammates in obtaining the ball. No player may pull his opponents' arms down when he has the ball in his possession, because that is holding. But, Doctor, they blame that tall fellow tapping the ball in the

center of the court for all the ills of the past game. I have heard one of our own boys, Coach Arthur "Dutch" Lonborg, of Northwestern University say many times that he found when his team had a short center and could not control the tip-off that in those very years he had his scrappiest teams. Those boys with their apparent disadvantage had to fight harder than ever to recover the ball after the tip-off.

- Naismith Well, Doctor, that is a good point. Now, another question -- is there any other game in which there is not either an equal chance for the opponents to obtain the ball after a goal is made, or the defendants are compelled to drive the ball into the opponents' territory? In the early '90s in football the ball was given to one side at the beginning of the game and after the goal was made, they were permitted to attack instead of the usual kick off. This lasted about two years, and then the return to the kick off was made.
- Allen- Dr. Naismith, do you think that the game of basketball as now constituted has a similar opportunity?
- Naismith I am not sure as to that. If the game is better without the tip-off certainly it will not return. Only time will tell about that. We want the game to continuously make progress.
- Allen Doctor, one critic in Indianapolis contended that you are still in the era of the peach-basket stage. What would be your reaction to such criticism as that?
- Naismith If I am in the peach-basket stage it is because the late rules compel me to be in that stage. In the early days 10 men played the game in a 40 by 50 foot area, and we gradually enlarged the field so as to get in scientific play. But the rules since 1932 are now compelling 10 men to play in a space 45 by 50 feet which naturally brings in a lot of roughness as we had in the peach basket stage, and the center tip is the only play that occupies the full court.
- Allen Well, Dr. Naismith, this is a tribute to you when they talk about the peach basket stage, because the basket idea was yours, and I would say that any idea that can enthrall 18 million people is a peach of an idea! But, seriously, Doctor, the proponents of the new rule state that this new rule has increased the playing time about 7 minutes. What do you say as to that?
- Naismith Do you think that is right? In the rule it specifically states that the ball is dead after a goal is made and play ceases, and how can you increase the playing time? You might decrease the elapsed time, but you can't increase the playing time.
- Allen That is exactly right, Doctor. They have not increased the playing time one iota by rule. But they can actually play longer under this game than they played under last year's game. This is the reason: After a free throw or a field goal was made the referee

tossed the ball up at center for the tip-off. By research it was determined that it took on an average about 10 seconds for the ball to be brought from the end line where the basket was made to the center at the time it was tossed up for the tip-off, and incidentally that 10 seconds gave the spectators time to catch their breath and their hearts to resume normalcy after a thrilling score. Counting the number of field goals and free throws that were successfully made, and multiplying this by 10 seconds, the total elapsed time during the progress of the game was 5 to 7 minutes. Had the time been declared out last year after field goals, the playing situation would have been identically the same as this year.

Naismith Well, now, according to the wording of the new rule, how can the game be speeded up on account of the rules? Is it not in spite of the rules that the game has been speeded up?

Allen Well, Doctor, so far as the speeding up of the game is concerned, that is entirely up to the play of the two opposing teams. The so-called new rules have not been in the books long enough for the teams to get thoroughly adjusted, as yet. If the side scored upon really desires to delay the game, that side may hold the ball 5 seconds out of bounds by rule at the end line before they throw the ball in, and then they may take 10 seconds in addition before the players on that side are forced by the rule to cross the center line of the court, or the division line. In other words, it is possible to withhold the ball from the offensive court for 14 seconds after a goal is made. So you can see that they can play the slow break just as well as they can play the fast break, and personally I think that some smart team is going to try that. I noticed by Sunday's paper that Iowa State used the slow break against Kansas State and beat them 41 to 30. So you see, Doctor, all teams are not going in for this fire department basketball. In another year I predict that many teams will be using the slow break and then you will have 5 seconds to pass the ball in from out of bounds and 10 seconds to get across. Then after they get across they are going to use a play that many people call "stall", and it will be a dreary game. Don't you think so?

Naismith Yes, I certainly agree with you. That is the real objection to the whole thing, and that has been and is my objection to the tipless center. It gives the team that has been scored upon an opportunity to delay the game.

Allen Well, then, Doctor, who knows but what your prophecy, although you didn't prophesy you did indicate, that since the football rules went back to the kick off there may be a return to the center tip-off in basketball in a year or two. Don't you think there is a possibility of rotating the jumpers in basketball just as they have the batting order in baseball? The coaches could instruct their players during practice, so it would be an easy matter to handle the game situation.

Naismith And another thing, Dr. Allen - if there was a deviation from this practice by any one team, the opponent would quickly recognize it and call it to the attention of the referee.

Allen Why, certainly they would. No difficulty would be encountered in this regard. But, Doctor, I see that our time is fast drawing to a close.

Naismith But wait a minute - at least we have time for another question, haven't we?

Allen Surely.

Naismith A great deal has been said about the injurious effects of the fast break, especially in league games among junior high schools. Don't you think that they are putting too much stress upon the contest rather than upon the recreative sport and educational factors for the young boys?

Allen Yes, Doctor, Instances of this have come up often in the National Rules discussion. I remember distinctly that Floyd Rowe, director of physical education of the public schools of Cleveland, Ohio, submitted a research finding that was done in Cleveland. This research showed that organized league competition actually effected the nervous system of these boys to such an extent that the normal growth was influenced. One group was taken with no special emphasis upon league play and the other group indulged in regular league competition. According to the findings in Cleveland, the regular league competition was very detrimental to high school boys under the old rule, and under the new rule the strenuousness of the game would be increased. I am sure that the authorities who are making surveys would certainly be against this new game on that principle.

Naismith Well, now, isn't this league contest a strain upon the nervous system rather than upon the muscular? And for my part, I think that it would be very much better to limit the league playing or the interscholastic competition in the junior high schools.

Allen- Yes, Doctor, you have hit the nail right on the head, because isn't it true that the nervous system controls the glandular system, and the glandular system determines the growth of the individual?

Naismith That is my idea of it.

Allen By the way, we have Nelson Sullivan, our sports announcer atop Mt. Oread. Sully, you tell the wide world the news, will you?